

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

URBAN DISTRICT

OF

SAWBRIDGEWORTH

FOR 1913.

SAWBRIDGEWORTH:
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1914.



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THE ELMS,

SAWBRIDGEWORTH,

March 10th, 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the past year.

The Vital Statistics show a considerable increase in the Death Rate, which I have endeavoured to account for in my comments. The Birth Rate is higher than that of the several preceding years, but is even now below the average.

The outbreak of Scarlet Fever, which commenced in October, still prevails; fortunately no deaths have occurred from the disease, which is of an exceedingly mild type.

I would especially draw your attention to my remarks under "Houses of the Working Classes."

I beg each Member of the Council to accept my thanks for his courtesy and kindness to me during the past year, which I very much appreciate.

I also thank Mr. Morris and Mr. Watts for their valuable assistance.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ETHELBERT COLLINS.

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1913.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Thirteenth Annual Report on the Health of your Town.

CHIEF STATISTICS.

The Population of the Town (estimated) to the middle of 1913 was	...	...	...	...	2335
The Population of the Town at the Census of 1901 was	...	...	...	...	2085
The Population of the Town at the Census of 1911 was	...	...	...	...	2304
The Acreage of the Town at the Census of 1911 was	...	...	...	...	2678
The Number of Inhabited Houses at the Census of 1901 was	...	...	...	...	461
The Number of Inhabited Houses at the Census of 1911 was	...	...	...	...	546
The Number of Inhabited Houses at the middle of 1913 was	...	...	...	...	554
The Average Population per House at the Census of 1901 was	...	...	...	...	4.5
The Average Population per House at the Census of 1911 was	...	...	...	...	4.2
The Average Population per House at the middle of 1913 was	...	...	...	...	4.2

	1911.	1912.	1913.
Birth Rate (per 1,000 Population)	18.7	14.6	22.2
Total Deaths registered in District	15	14	31
Corrections	+8	+3	+8
Net Death Rate	9.5	7.3	16.7
Standardised Death Rate			14.9
Zymotic Death Rate	0.40	.00	0.40
Death Rate from Diarrhœa	0.40	.00	.00
" " " Phthisis	.00	.00	0.40
" " " Cancer	1.60	.86	1.7
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 Births)	155.5	58.8	96.3
Total Deaths over 65 years	7	10	15

The Birth Rate this year shows an increase over that of the two previous years. The Death Rate during the last five years has been abnormally low, but this year it shows a large increase, which is due to an increased number of senile deaths.

One death occurred from Diphtheria, one from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and four from Cancer. The Death Rate from Diarrhœa was nil, in spite of the hot summer, which was favourable to the epidemic form of that disease.

The Infant Mortality Rate is about the average. Four infants died from premature birth, and one from insufficient vitality—causes which were entirely unavoidable.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DEATHS.

				1911.	1912.	1913.
Measles	...	...	...	I	O	O
Diphtheria	...	...	...	O	O	I
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	I	O	O
Phthisis	...	...	...	O	O	I
Influenza	...	...	...	O	O	I
Erysipelas	...	...	...	O	O	I
				2	O	4

NOTIFICATIONS.

Diphtheria	...	...	...	O	I	2 (2)
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	I	2	18 (17)
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	O	I	O
Erysipelas	...	...	...	O	O	I
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	O	2	3
				I	6	24

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are isolated at the Joint Hospital at Bishop's Stortford. The Hospital is provided by the Stanstead and Hadham Rural District Councils and the Sawbridgeworth Urban District Council.

A similar arrangement exists for the isolation of Smallpox cases in a separate Hospital.

DISINFECTION.

Infected clothing, bedding and other articles are disinfected at the Isolation Hospital by a Steam Disinfector.

The premises from which an infectious patient has been removed are at once disinfected under the supervision of the Sanitary Officer.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Specimens requiring a Bacteriological Examination are sent to the Clinical Research Association.

EPIDEMIOLOGY.

Small-pox.—No case was notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.—The notifications of Scarlet Fever numbered eighteen during the year. The first case was notified in July. The patient contracted the disease in London and was treated at home. The case was one of unusual severity. On October 20th an outbreak of a very mild type of the disease commenced, which resulted in the notification of seventeen cases between that date and December 30th. The disease was probably imported into the district from a neighbouring parish, where the same mild form of the disease was prevalent. A very large proportion of the cases occurred in children attending the Fawbert and Barnard Schools, and as a precaution the Schools were closed on November 11th for three weeks. The Schools were fumigated, and thoroughly cleaned before they were re-opened, but within a week of re-opening fresh cases were notified. All the seventeen cases were sent to the Isolation Hospital. Every precaution was taken to arrest the spread of the disease, but in spite of these precautions cases were still being notified at the end of the year. I attribute the failure to stamp out the disease to its extreme mildness, owing to which cases are overlooked, and never come under observation, are allowed to be at large, and consequently spread infection.

Enteric Fever.—No case was notified.

Erysipelas.—One case was notified, which was fatal.

Diphtheria.—Two cases were notified from Spellbrook; both were removed to the Isolation Hospital; one was fatal.

Puerperal Fever.—No case was notified.

Measles.—No cases occurred.

Whooping Cough.—No cases during the year.

Influenza.—One death occurred, of a resident, at the Bishop's Stortford Union Infirmary.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis.—These diseases did not prevail, and there was no death.

Phthisis.—One death was caused by pulmonary tuberculosis. Three cases were notified, two of which have received treatment in a Sanatorium, and are being kept under observation.

CANCER.

There were four deaths from Cancer as compared with two in 1912, four in 1911, and three in 1910. The Death Rate from Cancer is about the average.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

There are no Public Institutions in the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

A constant supply of water of great purity is provided by the Herts and Essex Waterworks Company from their deep wells sunk into the chalk. It seems to be impossible for the water to become contaminated.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is nothing fresh to report on with regard to Drainage. The system is working satisfactorily, and the district is excellently drained. The effluent which passes into the Stort is sufficiently pure.

SCAVENGING.

The Public Scavenger collects dry house refuse once a week. The system is satisfactory.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Most of the cottages have now been furnished with water closets. Flushing cisterns have in many instances been substituted for the "pail flushing system," which is to be condemned as unsatisfactory. It is desirable that every water closet should be provided with a suitable flushing cistern.

NUISANCES.

The nuisances complained of and detected were of the usual kind, and call for no special comment. They are reported by the Sanitary Officer as they arise, and are promptly dealt with.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

This has again been systematically carried out by myself and the Sanitary Officer.

The cow-sheds, slaughter-houses, bakehouses, workshops and workplaces are inspected regularly and at frequent intervals.

HOUSES OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

There is an adequate supply of excellent cottages varying in rent from 5/- to 7/6 per week, but the demand for cottages at a rent of from 2/6 to 3/6 per week is very great. Unfortunately, this demand for cottages at a low rent prevails throughout the country, and is not confined to your district. The only way of meeting the difficulty is by the erection of low-rent cottages by the different Councils. This is being done in several districts in the County, and I would commend to your serious consideration the advisability of your Council adopting the same plan. There are about 10 cottages in the district, which have been kept under close observation for many years, and which have from time to time been made as inhabitable as possible, but the fact cannot be denied that they could, with advantage, be demolished. During the year there have been several cases of overcrowding, which have received the attention of the Sanitary Officer and have been remedied.

The Surveyor supervises the erection of new houses.

MEANS FOR PREVENTING MORTALITY IN CHILDBIRTH AND INFANCY.

The Notification of Births' Act has been adopted, and Health Visitors visit the homes of the working classes.

There are no uncertificated midwives who attend maternity cases.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the three Elementary Schools in the District is quite satisfactory. Each School has a sufficient supply of pure water. Precautions against the spread of infectious diseases are taken (1) by exclusion from School of infected scholars; (2) by reports received from the teachers of suspicious cases; (3) by the inspection of the children by the District Nurse; (4) by closure of the School; (5) by systematic inspection by myself.

PREMISES UNDER SUPERVISION.

Dairies and Cow-sheds.—Four were inspected fifteen times during the year, and were found in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Slaughter-houses.—One; four inspections were made during the year.

Bakehouses.—Five; fifteen inspections were made during the year, and were found in a satisfactory condition.

Workshops and Workplaces.—Thirty-six satisfactory.

**SUMMARY of Work done though the Sanitary Inspector
in the Urban District of Sawbridgeworth during the year ending
31st December, 1913.**

	Total No for Year	
Complaints received	5	
Nuisances detected without complaint	25	
Nuisances abated	25	
Cottages inspected	150	
Slaughter-houses inspected	1	4 Inspections during the year
Bakehouses inspected	5	15 ditto
Dairies and Milk Shops inspected ...	2	12 ditto
Cow-sheds inspected	4	15 ditto
Workshops inspected	36	72 ditto
Houses disinfected... ..	16	
Schools disinfected	3	
Overcrowding abated	6	
Houses erected or rebuilt for which Water Certificates were applied for...	6	
Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded	2	1 Sunk by G. E. Rly. Co. 1 Improved supply. Cleansed.
Wells cleansed or repaired	1	
Houses connected with Sewer	20	
Houses connected with Water Mains ...	20	
Earth, Pail, or Improved Privies con- structed or existing privies altered ...	8	
W.C.'s supplied with water	20	

(Signed) ALBAN T. WATTS.

Housing Town Planning Act.

	Total Number for Year.
No. of Houses inspected under Section 17 of the Act	90
No. of Houses found unfit	10
No. of Houses about which representa- tions were made to the Council ...	10
No. of Closing Orders made by the Council	None.
No. remedied without Closing Orders being made	2
General character of defects found	{ Floors damp, Footings defective, General repairs required.

(Signed) ALBAN T. WATTS.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.				TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-Residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.		
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	2335	48		20.5	22	9.4		4	4	83.3	26	11.1
1909	2380	56		23.8	22	9.2		4	4	71.4	26	10.9
1910	2460	55		22.3	15	6.0		5	2	36.3	20	8.10
1911	2400	43	+ 2	18.7	15	6.2		8	7	155.5	23	9.5
1912	2320	34	0	14.6	14	6.0		3	2	58.8	17	7.3
1913	2335	52	0	22.2	31	13.2		8	5	96.3	39	16.7

NOTES.—This Table is arranged to show the gross births and deaths in the district, and the births and deaths properly belonging to it with the corresponding rates. For years before 1911 some of the corrected rates probably will not be available. The rates should be calculated per 1000 of the gross estimated population. In a district in which large Public Institutions for the sick or infirm seriously affects the statistics, the rates in Columns 5 and 13 may be calculated on a nett population, obtained by deducting from the estimated gross population the average number of inmates not belonging to the district in such institutions.

*In Column 6 are to be included the whole of the deaths registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district.

In Column 12 is to be entered the number in Column 6, corrected by subtraction of the number in Column 8, and by addition of the number in Column 9. Deaths in Column 10 are to be similarly corrected by subtraction of the deaths under 1, included in the number given in Column 8, and by addition of the deaths under 1 included in the number given in Column 9.

†The Medical Officer of Health will be able from the returns made to him by the local Registrar of Deaths, as well as from the Quarterly Lists furnished by the Registrar-General, to fill in Column 8 in accordance with the rule in the next paragraph below. The Registrar-General, either directly or through the County Medical Officer of Health, will supply the Medical Officer of Health with the particulars of deaths to be entered in Column 9; and all such deaths must be included in this Column, unless an error is detected, and its correction has been accepted by the Registrar-General. For Column 4 the Registrar-General will furnish to the Medical Officer of Health, a Statement of the number of births needing to be added to or subtracted from the total supplied by the local Registrar.

‡“Transferable deaths” are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales, die in a district other than that in which they resided. The deaths of persons without fixed or usual residence, *e.g.*, casualties, must not be included in Columns 8 or 9, except in certain instances under 3 (*b*) below. The Medical Officer of Health will state in Column 8 the number of transferable deaths of “non-residents” which are to be deducted, and will state in Column 9 the number of deaths of “residents” registered outside the district which are to be added in calculating the nett death-rate of his district.

The following special cases arise as to Transferable Deaths:—

- (1) Persons dying in Institutions for the sick or infirm, such as hospitals, lunatic asylums, workhouses, and nursing homes (but not almshouses) must be regarded as residents of the district in which they had a fixed or usual residence at the time of admission. If the person dying in an Institution had no fixed residence at the time of admission, the death is not transferable. If the patient has been directly transferred from one such Institution to another, the death is transferable to the district of residence at the time of admission to the first Institution.
- (2) The deaths of infants born and dying within a year of birth in an Institution to which the mother was admitted for her confinement should be referred to the district of fixed or usual residence of the parent.
- (3) Deaths from Violence are to be referred (*a*) to the district of residence, under the general rule; (*b*) if this district is unknown, or the deceased had no fixed abode, to the district where the accident occurred, if known; (*c*) failing this, to the district where death occurred, if known; and (*d*) failing this, to the district where the body was found.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water).	2,678	Total population at all ages, 2,304. Number of Inhabited Houses, 546. Average number of Persons per House, 4.2. At Census, 1911,
(cf. Census, 1911, Vol. V.).		

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

CAUSES OF DEATH.											
		All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
All Causes { Certified (c) Uncertified ...	39	5	0	1	1	1	1	15	15	0	
Diphtheria and Croup ...	1			1				1			
Influenza ...	1							1			
Erysipelas ...	1							1			
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	1							1			
Cancer, Malignant Disease	4							2	2		
Rheumatic Fever ...	1							1			
Organic Heart Disease ...	6						1	3	2		
Bronchitis ...	4							1	4		
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1							1			
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1							1			
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	5	5			1	1		4	7		
Other Defined Diseases ...	13										
	39	5	0	1	1	1	1	15	15	0	

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the Year 1913.

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

Notifiable Disease.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							Total Cases removed to Hospital.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under I.	I and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.		65 and upwards.
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	2		1						2
Erysipelas ...	1						1		
Scarlet Fever ...	18		2	14	1	1			17
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	3					2	1		
Totals ...	24	0	3	15	1	3	2	0	19

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, } Isolation Hospital, Bishop's Stortford, a joint Hospital provided by the
 Sanatoria, &c. } Stanstead and Hadham R.D.C.'s and the Sawbridgeworth U.D.C.
 } Small Pox Hospital provided by four Councils.

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

Infant Mortality.

1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under
1 Year of Age.

Causes of Death.		All Causes { Certified. Uncertified.		{ Congenital Malfor- mations Premature Birth Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	
Under 1 week.	5	0	4	1	5
1-2 weeks.	0	0			0
2-3 weeks.	0	0			0
3-4 weeks.	0	0			0
Total under 4 weeks.	5	0	4	1	5
4 weeks and under 3 months.	0	0			0
3 months and under 6 months.	0	0			0
6 months and under 9 months.	0	0			0
9 months and under 12 months.	0	0			0
Total Deaths under 1 year.	5				5

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health on the Administration of the "Factory and Workshop Act, 1901," for the Year, 1913.

There are thirty-six Workshops in the District which are subject to the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, viz. :—

Workshops 13	}	These are inspected at regular intervals by the Sanitary Inspector and by myself.
Factories 0		
Workplaces 18		
Bakehouses 5		

SANITARY CONDITION.

The sanitary condition of the Workshops is quite satisfactory. Cleanliness is strictly observed. There is ample air-space in all the Workshops, ventilation is sufficient, and sanitary conveniences are provided. No "wet processes" are carried on in any of the Workshops.

SPECIAL SANITARY REGULATIONS FOR BAKEHOUSES.

The Bakehouses have been found clean and sanitary. The special regulations of the Act are carried out.

HOME WORK.

The dwellings in which Home Work is being carried on are suitable for the purpose. Ventilation and sanitation arrangements are good. There is no overcrowding.

There are no out-workers in the District

A Register of Workshops is kept.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1913, for the Urban District of Sawbridgeworth.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces & Homework.

I.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.
INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	72	None.	None.
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in part 3 of this Report)	72	None.	None.
Total	72		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.		Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.—*</i>			
Want of Cleanliness ...	None		
Want of Ventilation ...	None		
Overcrowding ...	None		
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	None		
Other Nuisances ...	None		
Sanitary } Insufficient ...	None		
Accommodation } Unsuitable or defective ...	None		
Not separate for sexes ...	None		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act.—</i>			
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	None		
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake-houses (ss. 97 to 100) ...	None		
Other offences ...	None		
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)			
Total ...	None		

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—HOME WORK.

No Outworkers in District.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.						Number.
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	5
	Bootmakers	...	...	...	...	4
	Tailors	...	...	...	...	3
	Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	6
	Harness Makers	...	...	...	...	2
	Builders	...	...	...	...	2
	Printers	...	...	...	...	1
	Wheelwrights	...	...	...	...	2
	Millers	...	...	...	...	1
	Blacksmiths, Bicycle Repairers, Tinsmith	...	...	...	...	3
Total number of Workshops on Register						36

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshops Act (s. 133, 1901)	None.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5) } Notified by H.M. Inspector	None.
Other	None.
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	None.
Underground Bakehouse (s. 101):—	
Certificates granted during the year	None.
In use at the end of the year	None.

ETHELBERT COLLINS,

March 10th, 1914.

Medical Officer.